

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image recording apparatus for recording a motion image signal and a still image signal by a movable recording member onto a recording medium sporadically distributed with a plurality of vacant areas, comprising:

5 a selector for selecting any one of a motion image record mode and a still image record mode;

 a first detector for detecting a vacant area satisfying a first condition concerning at least one of a position and a size when the motion image record mode is selected;

10 a first recorder for recording the motion image signal to a vacant area detected by said first detector;

 a second detector for detecting a vacant area satisfying a second condition concerning at least one of the position and the size but different from the first condition when the still image record mode is selected; and

15 a second recorder for recording the still image signal to a vacant area detected by said second detector.

2. An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the first condition is a condition that the size is maximum.

3. An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said recording medium is sporadically distributed with vacant areas in the number
20 of M, and

the second condition being Nth ($1 < N < M$) greater in size.

4. An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said recording medium is a disk-formed recording medium, and
the first condition being a condition of being positioned innermost of said disk-
25 formed recording medium.

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5. An image recording apparatus according to claim 4, wherein
the second condition is a condition that the size is maximum.
6. An recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said recording medium is a disk-formed recording medium, and
5 the first condition being a condition of being positioned outermost of said disk-
formed recording medium.
7. An image recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
the second condition is a condition that the size is maximum.
8. An image recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
10 the first condition is a condition that the size is maximum and a first predetermined
value is exceeded.
9. An image recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
the second condition is a condition that the size is maximum of vacant areas not
exceeding the first predetermined value.
- 15 10. An image recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein
the second condition further includes condition that the number of vacant areas not
exceeding the first predetermined value is equal to or greater than a predetermined
number.
- 20 11. An image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
the second condition is a condition that the size is maximum if the number of
vacant areas not exceeding the first predetermined value is less than the predetermined
number.
- 25 12. An image recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
said recording medium is sporadically distributed with vacant areas in the number
of M, and

the second condition being a condition of Nth ($1 < N < M$) greater in size.

13. An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the second condition is a condition that the size is maximum of a plurality of vacant areas integrated in size in the smaller order up to having a total size exceeding the second predetermined value.

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